

Department of the Treasury

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms



ATF NEWS



Nashville Field Division

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For Immediate Release

Date: August 26, 1999

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Walmart Arson Conviction

On October 6, 1993, the Memphis Fire Department responded to a structure fire at Walmart located at 3915 Austin Peay Highway Memphis, Tennessee. The fire resulted in a \$12,000,000 loss of structure and contents. The Memphis Fire Department Arson Squad requested the assistance of the Memphis Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Upon the arrival of the Memphis ATF Agents an assessment was made and a request for the ATF National Response Team (NRT) to respond was made. ATF's National Response Team is a cadre of specially trained experts who investigate major explosive and fire incidents. The fire was determined to be an act of arson.

On September 9, 1997, Chris Wright, 30 years old, of 2059 Laramie Memphis, TN was indicted and arrested on one count of the Federal arson statute in the Western Judicial District of Tennessee. On August 26, 1999, Wright was convicted by a jury of arson following a nine day trial before the Honorable Bernice B. Donald. Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Weber prosecuted Wright in the case.

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